IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kaoru HIGUCHI et al.

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Group:

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For:

PATTERN

FORMATION

APPARATUS

AND

MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 April 8, 2004

Sir:

following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This amendment includes: Amendments to the Specification; and Remarks.